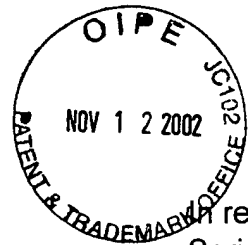


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of: William E. Cohn et al.
Serial No.: 10/068,700
Filing Date: 02/05/2002
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
REDUCING MITRAL REGURGITATION
Group Art Unit: 3738
Examiner: Unknown
Attorney's Docket No.: VIA-16

Assistant Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby make the following documents of record in the above-identified application:

U.S. Patents

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,402,781 issued 06/11/02 to Langberg et al.
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,210,432 issued 04/03/01 to Solem et al.
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 5,545,209 issued 08/13/96 to Roberts et al.
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 6,051,020 issued 04/18/00 to Goicoechea et al.
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 6,090,136 issued 07/18/00 to McDonald et al.
- (6) U.S. Patent No. 5,720,726 issued 02/24/98 to Marcadis et al.
- (7) U.S. Patent No. 5,800,495 issued 09/01/98 to Machek et al.

Foreign Patents

- (8) PCT International Publication No. WO 02/053206 A2 published 07/11/02
- (9) PCT International Publication No. WO 01/00111 A1 published 01/04/01
- (10) PCT International Publication No. WO 01/54618 A1 published 08/02/01

Other Documents

- (11) Langberg et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0044568 A1, published 11/22/01.

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- (12) Langberg et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0016628 A1, published 02/07/02.
- (13) Solem et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0018611 A1, published 08/30/01.
- (14) Alferness et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0087173 A1, published 07/04/02.
- (15) Buchanan, James W., Circumferential Suture of the Mitral Annulus for Correction of Mitral Regurgitation in Dogs, Veterinary Surgery, 1998, pages 182-193.
- (16) Kerstetter, Kyle K. et al., Short-Term Hemodynamic Evaluation of Circumferential Mitral Annuloplasty for Correction of Mitral Valve Regurgitation in Dogs, Veterinary Surgery, 1998, pages 216-223.
- (17) Beardow, Andrew W. et al., Chronic Mitral Valve Disease in Cavalier King Charles Spaniels: 95 Cases (1987-1991), JAVMA, Vol. 203, No. 7, October 1, 1993, pages 1023-1029.
- (18) Davila, Julio C. et al., Circumferential Suture of The Mitral Ring, 18 pages.
- (19) Glover, Robert P. et al., The Treatment of Mitral Valve Insufficiency By The Purse-String Technique, The Journal of Thoracic Surgery, January 1957, 14 pages.
- (20) Davila, Julio C. et al., Circumferential Suture of The Mitral Valve for the Correction of Regurgitation, The American Journal of Cardiology, Inc., September 1958, 6 pages.
- (21) Buchanan, James W., Causes and Prevalence of Cardiovascular Disease, Current Veterinary Therapy XI, WB Saunders Co., 1992, 2 pages.

Copies of these documents, which are listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 (three pages), are enclosed herewith. Applicants respectfully request that these documents be fully considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application and printed on any patent which may issue on this application. Applicants also respectfully request that a copy of Form PTO-1449

(three pages), as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with the next communication.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. If for any reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted by the Examiner by telephone in order that any deficiencies may be expeditiously remedied.

The enclosed documents may have markings thereon. Applicants are not presently aware of the source of those markings, and no significance is meant to be attached thereto.

Please charge any additional fees due in connection with this submission, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this submission is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Thank you.

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NOVEMBER 8, 2002

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

JAMES A. SHERIDAN

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

James A. Sheridan 11/8/02

(SIGNATURE)

NOVEMBER 8, 2002

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Sheridan 11/8/02

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